



FOCUS

Integration • Inclusion

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For a fair and welcoming French-language community in Ontario

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La Passerelle I.D.É. is a non-profit
organization created in response to the
integration and economic development
needs of young Francophones from the
various cultural communities of Greater
Toronto. Founded in 1993, La Passerelle
is recognized within the French-speaking
community for its leadership on issues and
matters affecting its clientele.
www.passerelleide.com

To consult calls for proposals issued by
Citizenship and Immigration Canada,
Settlement Directorate, Ontario Region,
visit www.etalblissement.org.

About ...

CIC's Ongoing Commitment

By Veronica Barnes, Regional Director
Settlement and Intergovernmental Affairs, Ontario Region
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

As a result of announcements stemming from Budget 2012, fiscal year 2012-2013 represented a significant period of change for Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Specifically for Ontario region, a new management structure for Integration Operations was created. Another considerable change was the implementation of CFP 2012, the first national call out for the department.

CFP 2012 focused on streamlining service delivery Contribution Agreements for settlement and resettlement programming across the country. A national approach to the call out ensured that consistent tools and resources were applied throughout the process, by both recipients and the various CIC regions participating. In total, CIC Ontario Region received and assessed 426 proposals.

When assessing proposals received in response to CFP 2012, CIC took into consideration project relevance, potential for success, cost effectiveness and value for money. CIC received many more proposals than the department could fund. Therefore, proposals were assessed to ensure that they met newcomer needs, that proposed service delivery sites corresponded to where CIC clients were located (as identified through mapping exercises), demonstrated cost effectiveness, and addressed settlement program priorities.

Funding decisions made by CIC Ontario region in response to CFP 2012, resulted in a gap with respect to addressing the needs of francophone newcomers in northern Ontario. To address this, CIC Ontario Region is developing a transition plan which includes undertaking negotiations with certain service providers to supply direct services, as well as to support the Francophone

Immigration Network. Northern Ontario's francophone community will not experience a gap in services. In addition, CIC will be working with partners in northern Ontario to identify a longer term approach to more effectively reach francophone newcomers in Sudbury and surrounding communities. CIC will continue to support the provision of newcomer services to francophone immigrants in Northern Ontario and across the province.

CIC will also continue to strengthen existing partnerships with the francophone community and other levels of governments to support francophone minority communities' successful integration.

As we move into fiscal year 2013-2014, CIC Ontario region will continue to ensure that newcomers to Canada receive the settlement and resettlement services that they require to enable positive contributions to the Canadian economy and society. CIC will also continue to strengthen existing partnerships with the francophone community and other levels of governments to support francophone minority communities' successful integration.

Promotion, Recruitment and Settlement

Collège Boréal: Funding from Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration To Support Newcomers in Central Southwestern Ontario

By Benoît Clément,
Communications Manager, Collège Boréal



As part of its Newcomer Settlement Program, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) is providing funding support to Collège Boréal to provide basic settlement services. These services include needs assessment, referral and career counseling.

“Collège Boréal is proud to have the support of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in this undertaking. The successful integration of immigrants depends on a host of factors, and we can play a key role in the settlement, training and hiring of newcomers”, says Danielle Talbot-Larivière, Vice-Présidente of les Entreprises Boréal.

In addition to settlement services, Collège Boréal provides a wide range of training programs to immigrants settling in Central Southwestern Ontario:

- ▶ Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) in Peel, Toronto, Hamilton, London and Windsor funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada;
- ▶ Enhanced Language Training (ELT) in London and Windsor, also funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and LINC’s French equivalent, CLIC, at the Toronto campus;

- ▶ Occupation-specific language training (OSLT) in Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto and Peel.

And with funding support from MCI, Collège Boréal will be able to provide, in London in 2013-2015, the Fast Track Bridge Training Program in Early Childhood Education to French-speaking immigrants, with a special emphasis on integration in a Francophone environment and intercultural training.

SWIS at Work in Windsor: Key Role



The SWIS team assigned to work in French-language schools in the Windsor and Essex County areas.

The Settlement Workers in School (SWIS) Program implemented in the Windsor area and Essex County is a necessary tool for many French-speaking immigrant families. In fact, French-language schools and school boards have come to rely greatly on the professional support of the local dynamic SWIS team which helps newly arrived families settle in their host community.

The SWIS team works on school grounds, welcoming parents and new students and providing assistance with key aspects of the

settlement and integration process. SWIS help newcomers to access essential services in the community. They provide information sessions and workshops, often in partnership with teaching staff, to foster a greater understanding of the new environment and requirements. School administrators and teachers also receive assistance and insights on the best ways of supporting newcomers, both parents and their children.

The SWIS team not only has great expertise in matters of integration, but its members—

two men and four women— speak both English and French in addition to seven other languages, namely Arabic, Swahili, Lingala, Rwandan, Kirundi, Creole and Wolof. Their combined linguistic abilities give them an even greater capacity to help newcomers of all horizons. Not surprisingly, schools and their school boards place great value on their assistance. In fact, SWIS are considered a vital component of school life, working every day to ensure the successful integration of newly arrived families.

Integration and Awareness-raising

CFT's Integration Program in French Schools: *Helping Newly Arrived Immigrant Families*



Just over a decade ago, CFT, or Centre francophone de Toronto, launched PIDEF, a school-based integration program. Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), PIDEF assists newly arrived French-speaking immigrant families in the settlement and integration process.

First launched as a pilot project, PIDEF has grown and flourished. It is now offered in 16 French-language schools across Toronto with the help and expertise of four Settlement Workers in Schools or SWIS.

For more information, visit etablissement@centrefranco.org.

RANGE OF SERVICES

Families settling in the big city require a range of services and support. The PIDEF team provides valuable assistance in the following areas:

- ▶ Search for a school
- ▶ Elementary and high school registration;
- ▶ Integration of parents into school life and Canadian society;
- ▶ Relationship-building with students, parents, teaching staff and the school.
- ▶ Understanding Canadian society;
- ▶ Understanding the Ontario school system;
- ▶ Corporal punishment vs. positive discipline;
- ▶ School bullying;
- ▶ Community resources and after-school activities.

Youth activities are organized on school grounds with the full participation of elementary and high school administrators and teachers. These activities focus on health-related issues such as bullying, sexuality, smoking, drugs, gambling, alcohol, nutrition and fitness.

National Video Competition – *Who Am I?*

interfaith-and-belonging.ca/index.php?lang=fr

INTERCONFESSIONNEL ET LE SENTIMENT D'APPARTENANCE :
UN PROJET DE PROMOTION DE L'ÉDUCATION ET DE L'ENGAGEMENT CIVIQUES

Bienvenue sur le site dédié à l'initiative LE CANADA INTERCONFESSIONNEL ET LE SENTIMENT D'APPARTENANCE, créée par la Fondation canadienne des relations raciales (FCRR) pour la promotion de l'éducation et de l'engagement civiques.

Cette initiative, qui est financée par le ministère de la Citoyenneté, de l'Immigration et du Multiculturalisme du Canada, vise à faciliter le dialogue, à l'échelle du pays, sur la coopération et la communication interconfessionnelles, à promouvoir l'éducation et l'engagement civiques et à offrir les outils nécessaires pour renforcer le sentiment d'appartenance. Le but est d'établir un cadre pancanadien pour un dialogue véritable entre les différentes communautés ethnoculturelles et confessionnelles, et de renforcer le rôle participatif de ces communautés dans la société canadienne. Le projet, qui fait appel à une participation active de ces groupes et à leur engagement, vise à promouvoir les valeurs démocratiques du Canada, sa diversité, et ses traditions; il vise aussi à développer avec les différents groupes la compréhension de nos droits et responsabilités et la meilleure manière possible de renforcer le sentiment d'appartenance au Canada.

2012 Award of Excellence & Symposium
Le Prix d'excellence 2012 et le Colloque

Le Prix d'excellence de la Fondation canadienne des relations raciales (FCRR) est un programme bisannuel qui vise à reconnaître des organismes publics, privés ou bénévoles pour l'excellence et le caractère novateur de leur participation à la lutte contre le racisme dans notre société. Ce Prix, qui est décerné aux organismes et individus affichant les meilleures pratiques dans ce domaine, fait partie du riche programme éducatif parrainé par la FCRR.

Tous les lauréats prendront part au Colloque national organisée à l'occasion de la remise du Prix et durant lequel il leur sera donné de faire part de leurs connaissances et de leur réussite à l'ensemble des participants. Le Colloque, qui aura lieu du 17 au 19 octobre 2012, se déroulera à l'hôtel Westin Nova Scotian, à Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse).

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) launched a video competition as part of the Interfaith and Belonging Project. Its goal was to encourage youth to discuss issues of identity, values, competing belief systems and human rights. Participants were to produce a creative 30-second video that enhances interfaith relations and/or deepens one's sense of belonging.

Five winning videos will be chosen based on originality, technical aspects and, most importantly, the effectiveness of the message of Canada as a multi-faith country. The videos will be judged by a panel of faith leaders, documentary film makers and the Interfaith and Belonging Project team. Winners will be announced in May 2013 and receive a cash prize of \$300 each. Winning entries may be aired by some Canadian television networks.

A Civic Education and Engagement Initiative

The national video competition was launched as part of the CRRF's Interfaith and Belonging Project, a Canadian civic education and engagement initiative. Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the initiative seeks to enhance the civic participation and responsibility of different communities in Canada and to strengthen a sense of belonging in Canada. The idea is to facilitate a national dialogue on interfaith cooperation and communication, and to provide the necessary tools in order to promote greater civic education and engagement.

This will in effect serve to construct a national framework for building bridges between and among groups of different ethnocultural and faith backgrounds; it will also help strengthen their participatory role in Canadian society. Other aspects of the Interfaith and Belonging project will be to engage with faith-based and ethnocultural communities to promote an understanding of Canadian diversity,

democratic values, and traditions. This will help communities better understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Canada and to develop a sense of belonging to Canada.



Source : <http://interfaith-belonging.ca/index.php?lang=en>



Legal Aid Ontario: Changing Refugee and Immigration Legal Aid Services

By Jawad Kassab
Director, Corporate Services
Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Legal Aid Ontario

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) has launched a modernization strategy to help ensure the delivery of responsive and quality services to refugees and immigrants, value for taxpayers and streamlined administration.

The various measures taken since September 2012 will help LAO to balance increasing client demand and new processes for refugee claimants and lawyers with its financial obligation to operate within its means. Measures will also help to mitigate a surge in the number of refugee certificates issued, which has increased by nine % over the past two years. LAO also expects to reduce operating costs by close to \$1 million dollars.

The measures will also help LAO transition to the new federal refugee and immigration legislation.

The modernization strategy will help LAO continue to carry out its mandate, which is to provide high-quality legal aid services to all our low-income clients—including refugees seeking asylum and those requiring immigration law services—in an innovative and cost-efficient manner.

Setting the Stage for Girls and Young Women to Succeed: Support from the Federal Government



In March 2013, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, the Honourable Senator Don Meredith announced Government of Canada support to La Passerelle – Intégration et Développement économique (I.D.É.) for a project designed to promote leadership among young visible minority francophone women in Toronto.

"Our Government is committed to the advancement of women in leadership roles throughout our country," said Minister Ambrose. "Through this project, young visible minority francophone women will gain important leadership skills to help them become the leaders of tomorrow."

"La Passerelle – Intégration et Développement économique has designed an outstanding project that will foster the talents, interests and capacity of young Canadian women," said Senator Meredith."

The project was chosen following a call for proposals launched on the theme Setting the Stage for Girls and Young Women to Succeed. La Passerelle – I.D.É. has received \$200,000 in federal funding to implement two-year leadership project involving young visible

minority Francophone women aged 18 to 24 who are either immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants. Participants will establish an advisory committee of youth and partners such as the Toronto Youth Cabinet, school boards and local community organizations. They will be mentored by elected officials to help them identify and overcome barriers to civic participation.

"Thanks to federal government support, this project will produce real results for these promising young Francophone women, as well as for our community," said Léonie Tchatat, Executive Director, La Passerelle – I.D.É. "Toronto will benefit greatly as more and more confident and capable young women from diverse backgrounds are empowered to exercise leadership at the municipal level and in the education system."

Information :

Amber Irwin, Press Secretary, Office of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women

Nanci-Jean Waugh, Director General
Communications and Public Affairs,
Status of Women Canada

Economy – Jobs – Recognition

A New Immigration Strategy for Ontario Expert Roundtable Table Submits Recommendations

By Rajaa Razafiarisoa,
Marketing and Communication, La Passerelle - I.D.É.

In the fall of 2012, Ontario's Expert Roundtable on Immigration tabled its recommendations in a final report titled *Expanding our Routes to Success*. The comprehensive report presents 32 recommendations that address the challenges of immigrant selection, settlement, and integration. Léonie Tchatat, Executive Director of La Passerelle-I.D.É. and member of the Expert Roundtable, points out that the report also addresses the issue of Francophone immigration and settlement.

The Expert Roundtable was created to assess how immigration can best support Ontario's economic development and help newcomers get jobs. Its role was to provide advice to the government to inform the development of Ontario's first-ever immigration strategy.

The report underscores immigration as being key to Ontario's future prosperity. In order for the province to grow and remain a competitive force in a global economy, it must attract a greater number of skilled immigrants. Care must also be taken to ensure that newcomers have access to a range of effective programs and services designed to facilitate their settlement and integration process.

Here are a few choice excerpts from the final report:

"Ontario's approach to immigration should work for all communities across the province. This includes ensuring that the Greater Toronto region remains a magnet for immigrants but also that other cities, rural, northern and remote communities, and Francophone communities all benefit from Ontario's immigration strategy."

Recommendation 10: Ontario's Provincial Nominee Program should be used to respond to specific occupational shortages and to the needs of communities, including Francophone and rural communities.

An immigration system must be made to work for all communities in Ontario, including small urban centres, Francophone, rural and Northern communities."

Stay-at-home Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs: Now Possible!

By Yvonne Kabeya, Executive Director
Regroupement des femmes immigrantes francophones (REFIF)

The *Stay-at-home Immigrant Women Entrepreneur Support Program* does exactly what it says: it helps newcomers to the GTA, specifically immigrant women, to start up a business from their home base. These businesses are micro enterprises such as catering services, clothes repair and beauty shops, or professional services such as tutoring, editing, writing, and proofreading. The program requires participants to have either permanent resident, or refugee status.

Launched by REFIF, a Toronto-based immigrant women support group, the program is supported by the Central Southwestern Francophone Immigration Support Network. It presents a novel approach to encouraging the economic integration of French-speaking immigrant women and, as such, constitutes yet another measure to help newcomers to successfully integrate into their host community.

As participants go through the business start-up process, they receive guidance, individualized support, tools and resources. Workshops on how to start a new business, mentoring opportunities and access to project financing through a micro-business fund are also provided.

Even women who don't immediately opt to start a business stand to benefit greatly from the experience, because they will have learned much about the business world, the Canadian mindset and what paths to take in order to achieve their business goals.

Coordinated Language Assessment and Referral Service (CLARS)

Background

In 2005, the federal and provincial ministers responsible for immigration signed a five-year Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) to enable and enhance coordination of their immigrant settlement policies and programs. One of the major ensuing recommendations called for the adoption of a coordinated approach to language assessment and referral, based on common standards and protocols, now known as the Coordinated Language Assessment and Referral System (CLARS).

The purpose of CLARS is to assess the language readiness and proficiency of an adult immigrant learner in order to place the learner in an appropriate language training class, whether in a federally funded program such as LINC (or Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada), or a provincially funded program such as ESL (or English as a Second Language).

In 2009, the CLARS Advisory Committee composed of language training and assessment experts and representative stakeholders was created. This committee developed elements and protocols necessary for the coordinated system of assessment and referral. These were reviewed through consultations with stakeholders (LINC, ESL and community groups).

Linguistic Eligibility Determination

The CLARS process is currently being piloted in London, Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge, and Kingston/Belleville. CLARS centres will screen clients for eligibility and provide language assessment and referral services for immigrants to Canada. Assessors will be responsible for verifying program eligibility based on proof of immigration status and language skills.

Prior to training, eligible clients are assessed to determine their level of language proficiency. The tests are based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks, a set of task-based level descriptors of English and French language ability. Results provide an indication of the amount of training that may be required in order for clients to achieve a language competency level.

Related Services

Language assessors also refer clients to language courses and language training providers. This one-stop service helps clients gain fair access to all eligible training and provides up-to-date information on training programs available in the community.

Rise of Entrepreneurship in Windsor: 15 Newly-Minted Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs

By Benoît Clément, Communications Manager
Collège Boréal

In March 2013, as part of an economic development program known as Étincelle (or spark) spearheaded by an immigrant women support group in Central Southwestern Ontario called Carrefour des Femmes du Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, 15 immigrant women received a certificate in small business development from Collège Boréal. The certificate opens the door to business development opportunities in the early childhood, international business and catering sectors.

Jointly funded by Status of Women Canada and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Étincelle is a three-year regional project designed to encourage French-speaking immigrant women to pursue business development in London, Sarnia, Windsor and Chatham.

"Our partnership with the Carrefour des Femmes du Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario reaffirms Collège Boréal's commitment to providing French-language training across Central Southwestern Ontario. Through this initiative, the College is giving professionally-trained immigrant women the opportunity to adapt their skills and knowledge in order to successfully integrate into Canadian society and to contribute to the region's economic vitality", said Danielle Talbot-Larivière, Vice-President of les Entreprises Boréal.

Program spokesperson for the Windsor-Chatham area, Georgette Lefu Kouyokila, sees the partnership as highly beneficial for immigrants across the region. *"College Boréal has more than 10 years of proven experience in the areas of training and employment. Their strategic links to other partners in the region enable us to offer our services to Windsor and London businesses where our program is also available."*

Building an Immigration System that Works for Canada

Launch of New Federal Skilled Trades Program



In December 2012, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced a new Federal Skilled Trades Program to address Canada's growing demand for skilled tradespersons.

"The new Skilled Trades Stream will help address serious labour shortages in some regions of the country, and support economic growth," Minister Kenney said. "For too long, Canada's immigration system has not been open to these in-demand skilled workers. These changes are long overdue and will help us move to a fast and flexible immigration system that works for Canada's economy."

Launched in January 2013, the program is designed to help ensure applicants have the right skills and experience needed to succeed here in Canada. In order to qualify, applicants will need to:

1. have an offer of employment in Canada or a certificate of qualification from a province or territory to ensure that applicants are "job ready" upon arrival;
2. meet a basic language requirement;
3. have a minimum of two years of work experience as a skilled tradesperson, to ensure that the applicant has recent and relevant practice as a qualified journeyman; and ;
4. have the skills and experience that match those set out in the National Occupational Classification (NOC B) system, showing that they have performed the essential duties of the occupation.

In order to manage intake, avoid backlogs and ensure fast processing times, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will accept up to a maximum of 3,000 applications in the first year of the Federal Skilled Trades Program.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Regionalization

Latest News from the Central Southwestern Francophone Immigration Support Network

By Alain Dobi, Coordinator



Networking activities across Northern Ontario are key to strengthening partnerships designed to support Francophone immigration.

As part of its 2012-2013 Action Plan, the Network, with the support of local partners, is working to encourage immigrants to start new businesses and to build capacity in Francophone community organizations.

In accordance with objectives 2 and 3 of the federal Strategic Plan, which seeks to foster immigration to Francophone minority communities, the Network is focusing much of its efforts in those two priority areas. Key activities have included a regional roundtable on the subject of entrepreneurship, a joint undertaking with London-Sarnia's ACFO and RDÉE Ontario via its flagship program Opportunities for All. The Network's individualized coaching

project is another major activity involving three community service organizations in Central Southwestern Ontario.

In addition to supporting employment services, the regional roundtable was created to connect immigrant entrepreneurs with business development opportunities. The central idea behind the initiative was to ensure they have the necessary tools to integrate economically. Dozens of major stakeholders were in attendance including representatives of FedDev, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

The Network's individualized coaching project seeks to build capacity in three Francophone organizations in the area of governance, including financial governance. All three organizations, namely l'Auberge Francophone de Toronto, Centre français Hamilton and REFIF, a service group for immigrant women, received guidance, in addition to taking part in training workshops to learn how to improve the quality of services provided regionally to French-speaking newcomers.



Rural Eastern Ontario: *"We Need Immigrants!"*

By Marie Élise Lebon, Coordinator
Eastern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network

A special gathering of economic and business stakeholders was held in January 2013 in the municipality of Casselman, less than one hour's drive from Ottawa, to underscore the pressing nature of a major regional challenge: rural Eastern Ontario needs its share of immigrants in order to grow and prosper.

This event was unprecedented in both nature and scope. Major stakeholders from across the region—the Village of Casselman, the Eastern Ontario Francophone Immigration Support Network, La Cité collégiale, Prescott-Russell's leading advocate ACFO and CCO, the Francophone association of cooperatives in Ontario—gathered to sound the alarm on the need to take action in order to foster Francophone immigration throughout the region.

According to keynote speaker Mario Lefebvre of the Conference Board of Canada, immigration is not only the key to the growth and prosperity of industrial communities, but of the entire country. He reminded the audience that the population is aging and if governments of all levels—federal, provincial and municipal—fail to take action, Canada will face crippling labour shortages. Opening the doors wide to immigration is, according to this expert, the smart strategy.

Hawkesbury mayor and warden of the United Counties of Prescott & Russell, René Berthiaume, shares this vision as do many other local leaders. *"Our communities must welcome immigrants with open arms. And we must convey this message across the region and continue to build our capacity to attract and retain French-speaking newcomers in our communities."*

Citizenship and Immigration Canada representative Richard Lecours took the opportunity to promote the range of existing settlement programs designed to help immigrant families to successfully integrate into their host community. Programs and services include language training in both English and French.

The gathering has spurred regional business leaders and economic stakeholders to mobilize in order to map out the next steps in attracting French-speaking newcomers to the region.